

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03925 051554Z

51

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SCA-01

SCSE-00 DRC-01 /153 W

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P R 051528Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 962

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

US MISSION GENEVA 607

USUN NEW YORK 572

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 3925

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ICRC SW

SUBJECT: TEHRAN RED CROSS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: DR. HANS BLIX, WHO HEADS SWEDEN'S DELEGATION TO TEHRAN, SAID IN INTERVIEW THAT ALTHOUGH INT. RED CROSS COMMITTEE HAS TAKEN A RATHER RADICAL AND POSITIVE POSITION ON UNDISCRIMINATING WARFARE METHODS AND PROTECTION OF POPULATIONS, IT HAS BEEN INSENSITIVE TO BANNING ESPECIALLY CRUEL WEAPONS. HE SAID SWEDEN WOULD BE WILLING SETTLE FOR SEPARATE PROTOCOL ON CRUEL WEAPONS IN ORDER NOT TO HINDER OTHER PROTOCOLS. END SUMMARY.

1. WITH THE RETIREMENT OF ALVA MYRDAL LAST WEEK, SWEDISH MFA LEGAL ADVISOR DR. HANS BLIX APPEARS TO BE IN FULL CHARGE OF SWEDISH DISARMAMENT EFFORTS, AT LEAST FOR PRESENT. IN NOV. 2 CABINET RESHUFFLE MYRDAL WAS NOT REPLACED. BLIX ARRIVES TEHRAN NOV. 7 TO HEAD SWEDISH DELEGATION.

2. IN SWEDISH NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW PUBLISHED NOV. 5 BLIX DISCUSSED THE UPCOMING TEHRAN CONFERENCE. HE COMMENTED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STOCKH 03925 051554Z

THAT THE INT. RED CROSS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN INSENSITIVE

TO THE WISHES OF SWEDEN AND OTHER STATES THAT COMMITTEE SHOULD PROPOSE AN ALL-OUT BAN AGAINST USE OF CERTAIN ESPECIALLY CRUEL WEAPONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE COMMITTEE HAS TAKEN A RATHER RADICAL HUMANITARIAN POSITION TOWARDS BANNING OF UNDISCRIMINATING WARFARE METHODS AND PROTECTIONS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION.

3. ON LATTER POINTS, BLIX SAID RED CROSS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY ARGUMENTS BROUGHT FORWARD BY NATIONS OUTSIDE THE BIG POWER CATEGORY. BUT ON THE EVEN MORE CONTROVERSIAL QUESTION OF BANNING ESPECIALLY CRUEL WEAPONS THE COMMITTEE HAS MOVED IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, TAKING A STAND THAT IS CLOSELY IN LINE WITH THE VIEWS OF THE BIG POWERS.

4. THE REASONS GIVEN FOR THE RED CROSS ATTITUDE, BLIX SAID, IS THE RISK THAT, SINCE THE MATTER IS SO CONTROVERSIAL, IT COULD BLOCK PROGRESS ON AN AGREEMENT ON THE PROTECTIONS OF CIVILIAN POPULATION AND THE USE OF UNDISCRIMINATING METHODS OF WARFARE. IN THIS SITUATION, SWEDEN WOULD BE PREPARED TO AGREE ON A SPECIAL PROTOCOL DEALING WITH THE WEAPONS BAN. THE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED TO RESTRICTIONS AGAINST CERTAIN WEAPONS WOULD THUS NOT BE PREVENTED FROM SIGNING THE OTHER PROTOCOLS.

5. REGARDING THE ATTITUDE OF THE BIG POWERS TO THE WEAPON QUESTION, BLIX SAID THAT FROM A SWEDISH POINT OF VIEW THEY TAKE A RATHER NEGATIVE STAND, BUT HE NOTES THAT HENRY KISSINGER DURING HIS SENATE CONFIRMATION HEARINGS SAID THAT HE EXPECTED PROPOSALS TO BAN CERTAIN WEAPONS. "THERE IS NO DOUBT BUT THAT THE VIETNAM WAR ACCENTUATED THE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS OF MODERN WAR," BLIX ADDED. "IT IS ALSO EVIDENT THAT OPINION IN CONGRESS PUTS A CERTAIN PRESSURE ON THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION AND THE 'SWEDISH' POINT OF VIEW IN THIS CONNECTION PLAYS SOME ROLE." IN CONCLUSION HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD FURTHER POLITICIZE THE PROBLEMS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STOCKH 03925 051554Z

6. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPIES OF TWO DRAFT SWEDISH RESOLUTIONS TO BE PRESENTED AT TEHRAN. TEXTS BEING SENT SEPTTEL.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: TEHRAN RED CROSS CONFERENCE SUMMARY: DR. HANS BLIX, WHO HEADS SWEDEN'S DELEGATION TO
TAGS: OCON, OVIP, SW, ICRC
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Type: TE
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